



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

November 16, 2012

Dear Referendum Voter:

The Second Bering Sea/Aleutian Island Non-pollock Groundfish Longline Catcher Processor Subsector referendum was successful and the industry fee system necessary to repay a \$2,700,000 reduction loan has been approved.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) mailed ballots to 37 permanent License Limitation Program (LLP) permit holders who were eligible to vote in the referendum. The voting period opened on October 24, 2012, and closed on November 7, 2012. NMFS received 32 timely and valid votes; all 32 of the votes approved the fees. This exceeded the majority of permit holders (19) required for industry fee system approval. Consequently, the referendum was successful and permit holders approved the industry fee system. Accordingly, the reduction contract is in full force and effect.

We published a reduction payment tender notice in the Federal Register on November 15, 2012. A copy of this notice is enclosed and discloses the name of the selected bidder and the permit number.

NMFS is preparing to tender and disburse a reduction payment to the selected bidder on or about December 17, 2012. The selected bidder must permanently stop all further fishing and relinquish the reduction permit. The selected bidder, in accordance with section 5 of the relinquishment contract, must notify any parties with secured interests in the reduction permit.

The initial fee applicable to the second reduction loan is \$0.001 per pound of longline Pacific cod. Post-reduction harvesters will begin paying this additional fee effective January 1, 2013. Please see the attached notice for more details.

Please contact Mike Sturtevant at (301) 427-8782 or [michael.a.sturtevant@noaa.gov](mailto:michael.a.sturtevant@noaa.gov) if you need further information.

Sincerely,

Paul Marx, Chief  
Financial Services Division

Enclosure



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